GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3342
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2008
SAND MINING ACTIVITIES
Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow Foreign Direct Investment(FDI) in sand mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) the details of coastal areas where sand mining activities are being carried out for commercial purposes, State-wise;

(d) the details of private entrepreneurs and public sectors involved in such mining, company- wise and state-wise;

(e) the details of items that have produced/exported through sand mining during each of the last three years till date, State-wise; and

(f) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom till date?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES(SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

(a)&(b): The Government has approved Foreign Direct Investment(FDI) up to 100% with prior approval of the Government in Titanium bearing minerals & ores and its value addition subject to the sectoral regulations and the Mines and Minerals(Development & Regulation) Act, 1957. The Government has also approved FDI for separation of titanium bearing minerals & ores on the condition that value addition facilities are set up within India along with transfer of technology and disposal of tailings during the mineral separation shall be carried out in accordance with regulations framed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.

(c): As per available information sand mining activities for commercial purposes are carried out in coastal areas in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa & Tamil Nadu.

(d): State-wise information in respect of private and public sector mining companies engaged in sand mining is as under:

State	Mining Companies	
	Private Sector	Public Sector
Andhra Pradesh	Transworld Garnet & East West Mineral Sands Pvt. Ltd.	_
Karnataka	B. Naveen Mendon, R.V. Hegde, A.R. Purshan, Canara Minerals, Beneka Minerals, Rohini Mining Co., Dharmadevi Minerals & V.R. Kawari	
Kerala	- Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd., and Indian Rare Earths Ltd.	
Orissa	- Indian Rare Earths Ltd.	
Tamil Nadu	V.V. Minerals, Indian Garnet Sand Company Ltd., Sakthi Mines and Minerals, Rohit Chemicals and Minerals & M/s. Beach Minerals Sand Co. Pvt. Ltd.	Indian Rare Earths Ltd.

(e) & (f): As per available information, Ilmenite is the most important beach sand mineral production of which is reported from Kerala, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. Total production of Ilmenite was 632025 tonnes, 711843 tonnes and 657479 tonnes(provisional) for the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively. India exported approximately 5 lakh tonne Ilmenite per annum valued at US$ 30 million to various countries